



The Continental Divide Trail Completion Act

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Quotes of Support:

Governor Jared Polis: “In Colorado, we’re proud of our magnificent parks and natural resources, and trails and access are important for us to be able to enjoy them. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail has been under construction for more than 40 years and it’s long past time to finish this project so that the full trail can be enjoyed by all. I want to thank Rep. Neguse for his efforts to bring this project to fruition.”

Tamara Pogue, Summit County Commissioner: “In Summit County, our economy depends on continuing to steward the beautiful mountains and forests we’re known for. People visit our community from all over the world to enjoy the Continental Divide Trail as it touches the sky at Grays Peak - the highest point on any National Scenic Trail. The Continental Divide Trail Completion Act will support our economy and ensure that this trail remains a national treasure for generations to come.”

Hinsdale County Commissioner Kristie Borchers: “Rural and mountainous Hinsdale County relies on trails to navigate our spectacular outdoor setting. Completion of this trail is important for outdoor recreation and our tourist-based economy.”

Ernie Bjorkman, Grand Lake Town Trustee: “The new world surrounding covid has only strengthened the fact that more of us need to be outside. Completing the continental divide trail would allow more people to enjoy our natural wonders of nature. And as a town trustee in Grand Lake, Colorado, I have seen the benefits of the trail that goes through our mountain town. It would be a great asset for our citizens of not only our country but the people of the world who will enjoy the trail.”

Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition: “We are excited to see legislation that will bring us one step closer to achieving our mission of completing, promoting, and protecting the world-renowned Continental Divide Trail. By prioritizing and ensuring greater collaboration between the agencies, local leaders, and partners who all make up the CDT community, we can help ensure that the enjoyment of the CDT is available for all. We celebrate that attention is being brought to this important work, and we look forward to continuing to serve the CDT community alongside our partners and local stewards to make the CDT experience one that is safe, accessible, and enjoyable, now, and for future generations.”



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Laura Belleville, Vice President of Conservation and Trail Management Programs for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy: “National Scenic Trails are engaging more people than ever, and in many communities, they add a boost to local economies. It’s imperative that there is a strong commitment and investment to complete the Continental Divide Trail -- a legacy that will live on well into the future, offering access to beautiful western landscapes.”

Peter and Patty Duke, Point6 Founders: “As a Steamboat Springs-based company and a long-time supporter of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Point6 strongly supports the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to prioritize completion of this National Scenic Trail in time for the CDT’s 50th anniversary.”

Sherry Copeland, Chairman of the Back Country Horsemen of America: “For decades, trail enthusiasts who enjoy travel via horse and mule have long been integral to the protection, construction and maintenance of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. We applaud Congressman Neguse for expanding upon the CDT vision and legacy. It would be an extraordinary accomplishment to see the trail made complete.”

Jim Petterson, Southwest and Colorado Director, The Trust for Public Land: “The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has worked for more than three decades to fill in the gaps and complete the Continental Divide Trail (Trail). Most recently, TPL helped protect more than a mile of the Trail at Upper Bear Creek, outside Silver City. Our mission is to ensure that the irreplaceable landscapes and viewsheds along the Trail are protected permanently, and to promote the local economies that benefit from visitation to the Trail. When the Trail was first established in 1978, more than 400 miles of the planned corridor was off-limits to the public. Even today, in some places, hikers must detour onto logging roads, or even narrow highway shoulders. In others, they contend with locked gates, “no trespassing” signs, and time-consuming route finding around fenced-off property. Completing the Trail will improve public access to nature and wilderness, protect private property rights, and support local outdoor recreation economies, ensuring that future generations can enjoy and explore the Rocky Mountains.”

Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact, an organization that works with local elected officials across the West on federal climate and public lands policies: “The completion of the Continental Divide Trail is important to so many mountain communities in Colorado and across the west. We are thankful to Representative Neguse for his leadership on this and so many important public lands issues across the country. What a joy it would be to have the completion of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in time for its 50th anniversary in 2028.”

A hiker in a red jacket and backpack is seen from behind, walking along a narrow dirt trail. The trail is surrounded by dense evergreen and deciduous trees. In the background, a vast mountain valley unfolds, with a winding river or road visible in the distance under a clear sky.

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Valerie Rupp, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System: “The Partnership for the National Trails System strongly supports the bill to be introduced by Congressman Neguse to complete the Continental Divide Trail. The Continental Divide Trail is an iconic and treasured destination that brings myriad benefits to trail users, neighboring communities, rural economies, local habitats and ecosystems. In addition to improving safety for trail users and enhancing the outdoor recreation and environmental values of the Trail, completing the Continental Divide Trail would bring the National Trails System one important step closer to achieving the vision Congress set forth in the National Trails System Act of 1968 - for a system that connects landscapes across the U.S. Passing legislation to ensure a concerted effort to finally complete the Continental Divide Trail will be a game changer for the Continental Divide Trail and a benchmark for the National Trails System as a whole.”

Jim Ramey, Colorado State Director, The Wilderness Society: “The Continental Divide Trail is one of Colorado’s – and America’s – top outdoor recreation treasures, providing thru-hikers, backpackers and day hikers with an exceptional experience in wild nature. Congressman Neguse’s effort to complete the trail will ensure that future generations can enjoy the natural and scenic beauty of the Continental Divide.”

Heather MacSlarrow, SWS Executive Director: “The Continental Divide Trail provides access to a wilderness experience for thousands. We fully support the completion of the trail, which will expand access to, and enjoyment of, that wilderness experience.”

Chris Hill, senior director of Sierra Club’s Our Wild America campaign: “Trails like the Continental Divide Trail connect people and communities with the nature around them, and have helped to inspire generations of environmental advocates. As we face the overlapping challenges of the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the nature equity gap, ensuring all people can develop those direct connections with nature has never been more important. Completing the Continental Divide Trail would be an important step towards ensuring the next generation has access to the public lands that define the West.”

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Endorsing Nonprofits:

Partnership for the National Trails System

The Trust for Public Land

The Wilderness Society

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado

The Colorado Trail Foundation

Sierra Club

Outdoor Industry Association

Society for Wilderness Stewardship

Back Country Horsemen of America

The Mountain Pact

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Society for Wilderness Stewardship

Cloud City Wheelers

Southwest New Mexico ACT

WNMU Outdoor Program

Anaconda Trails Society

Endorsing Rural Development/Tourism Organizations:

Silver City MainStreet –

Silver City, NM

Murray Ryan Visitor Center –

Silver City, NM

Cuba Rural Pathway Project –

Cuba, NM

Nacimiento Community Foundation –

Cuba, NM

Cibola Communities Economic

Development Foundation –

Grants, NM

Anaconda Chamber of Commerce –

Anaconda, MT

Carbon County Visitors' Council –

Rawlins, WY

Visit Helena Montana –

Helena, MT

Endorsing Businesses:

Deuter USA –

Longmont, CO

Montbell America –

Boulder, CO

Never Summer Mountain Products –

Grand Lake, CO

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Big Agnes –
Steamboat Springs, CO

Honey Stinger –
Steamboat Springs, CO

Mountainsmith –
Golden, CO

Point6 –
Steamboat Springs, CO

Triple Crown Hostel –
Silver City, NM

Wines By V –
Anaconda, MT

Pintler's Portal Hostel –

Anaconda, MT

Gila Hike and Bike –
Silver City, NM

Seek Dry Goods –
Conifer, CO

Salida Mountain Sports –
Salida, CO

Simple Lodge & Hostel –
Salida, CO

Hinsdale Haute Route –
Lake City, CO

Katabatic Gear –
Salida, CO

Endorsing Public Officials:

Jared Polis, Governor –
Denver, CO

Justin Critelli, Salida City Councilor –
Salida, CO

Kevin Linebarger, President, Lake County
Recreation Advisory Board –
Leadville, CO

Tamara Pogue, Summit County
Commissioner –
Breckenridge, CO

Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner,
New Mexico State Lands Office –
Santa Fe, NM

Steve Kudron, Mayor of Grand Lake –
Grand Lake, CO

City of Grants –
Grants, NM

The Town of Grand Lake –
Grand Lake, CO

Nathan Fey, Director, Colorado Outdoor
Recreation Industry Office –
Denver, CO

Kristine Borchers, Hinsdale County
Commissioner –
Lake City, CO

A hiker in a red jacket and blue pants is walking on a narrow dirt trail that winds through a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, a large, rugged mountain range is visible, featuring a prominent glacier that has descended from the peaks into the valley below. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

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